MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 DECEMBER 1981

Israel

Strategic Cooperation Debate -- According to Jerusalem radio reports, the Alignment, Shinuy, Hadash and Tehiya factions submitted motions of no-confidence in the government in the wake of the signing of the U.S.-Israeli memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation. The radio cited the Shinuy faction's motion as asserting that the government had not allowed the Knesset to study the memorandum and that the "hasty" signing may present Israel with a fait accompli of far-reaching security implications. The radio later reported that the High Court of Justice rejected an appeal by the Alignment faction against the timing of the Knesset debate on the motions. The radio had earlier noted that the Alignment faction opposed the Knesset speaker's decision to hold the debate at 1700 on 2 December rather than at the usual time of 1100, and to allow 10 hours of debate before the vote. The Alignment views these moves as attempts to postpone the no-confidence vote in order to enable ministers abroad to return to Israel and ensure a government majority, the radio said.

In an interview in Washington with Jerusalem television, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon maintained that the U.S.-Israeli agreement "undoubtedly" helps Israel and is meant to offer an answer to the chief danger to Israel: the danger of Soviet expansionism. During an earlier interview with Jerusalem radio, Sharon asserted that he had discussed the memorandum "extensively" with the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee both in September and within the past few days.

According to the Jerusalem POST, Alignment MK and former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin claimed that the U.S. undertaking in the memorandum of understanding is "not worth the paper it is written on" because of U.S. constitutional restrictions on the use of U.S. troops. Rabin also claimed that Israel is now obligated to help U.S. troops operating against Soviet troops in the Middle East, an obligation which no previous Israeli Government had undertaken or considered.

Reviewing the morning press editorials, Jerusalem radio noted Ha'aretz' opinion that although the manner in which the government agreed to the signing of the memorandum deserves sharp condemnation, the value of the memorandum itself should not be denigrated, because it symbolizes U.S. good will toward Israel and the deepening of friendly ties. According to the radio, DAVAR deplored the fact that a "far-reaching" step was decided on by a tiny group of people and stated that such a method is unacceptabe in a democratic country. This alone, DAVAR added, justifies an expression of no confidence.

Gaza Civilian Administration -- Jerusalem television reported that the civilian administration began functioning in the Gaza Strip under Brig Gen Yosef Luntz. Jerusalem radio later reported that a general strike began in Gaza to protest the new administration.

Egypt-Israel

Cairo radio reported that Egypt agreed to the postponement until 21 December of talks by the autonomy negotiations working teams. The talks had originally been scheduled to begin today.

Syria

Damascus radio reported the arrival of U.S. special envoy Philip Habib; it later said he met with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Citing a Syrian Foreign Ministry source, Monte Carlo radio reported that Khaddam told Habib that the only change since Habib's last visit to the region is the fact that Washington and Tel Aviv have signed a memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation, which has disqualified the United States as a mediator in any Arab-Israeli dispute.

SANA reported a commentary in AL-BA'TH which linked Habib's visit with "fatal explosion" in Lebanon and the coordination of Muslim Brotherhood activities with elements in Lebanon and "criminal organs" outside Syria. The paper asserted that Habib had barely set foot in Beirut when action was being taken "according to prior instructions." A Damascus radio report, citing AFP, said the Muslim Brotherhood claimed responsibility for a 29 November bomb explosion in Damascus which killed many innocent civilians.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio broadcast a joint staff communique which asserted that Iranian forces consolidated the positions recaptured in the Bostan-Susangerd region, repulsing several Iraqi counteroffensives, destroying 20 Iraqi tanks and downing three Iraqi helicopters. The communique said fighting was continuing in that region as well as on most of the western fronts. Another Tehran radio report said mopping up operations in the Bostan region were almost complete.

On the other hand, an Iraqi Armed Forces communique transmitted by INA claimed that Iraqi forces were continuing to attack the "remnants of the fleeing enemy forces" in the Susangerd area. It said Iranian losses amounted to 336 dead and 85 tanks destroyed.

Tehran radio broadcast a speech by Iranian Majlis speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in which he said that the Iranian offensive in Khuzestan had been timed to coincide with the Arab League summit conference in Fes as an "answer" to the Arab "reactionaries" and the U.S. exercises in the area. He added that it had been delayed after the Fes summit was suspended because it had been learned from Iraqi prisoners of war that the Iraqi Army was aware of the plan.

Iran

Government Purge -- In a speech to a group of Friday imams, a recording of which was broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Musavi-Khomeyni said that a purge is currently taking place in government departments. He added that an inspectorate general will soon become operational.

Denial of Arms Deal -- Tehran radio's Arabic service, citing the Iranian Embassy in Bahrain, denied allegations by Riyadh radio and Gulf newspapers that Iran has bought arms from Israel.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SUCCESSES AGAINST REBELS IN PAKTIA REPORTED

LD231516 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 23 Nov 81

[Text] The courageous officers and men of our heroic armed forces and sarandoy [Soviet-trained militia] recently eliminated gangs of counterrevolutionaries in Paktia Province who, resorting to terror and intimidation, disrupted the peaceful life of the people of areas between Jaji District and Mirzaka of that province. Assorted weapons have been seized from these murderers.

A spokesman for the security forces in Paktia Province said that 16 heavy and light machine-guns, 3,000 bullets, 6 pieces of ammunition for a 76-mm artillery gun, 43 mortars, 1 rocket launcher, 4 antitank mines, 3 antipersonnel mines and 1 wireless communication set were seized in Jaji District. In Mirzaka District, 17 pieces of various weapons and 3 antitank mines were seized by the security authorities.

Another report from Badakhshan Province says that a gang of robbers and murderers was eliminated by the security force with the help of the sincere and revolutionary cooperation in Jorm District of the province.

Some 17 heavy and light machineguns, 4,500 bullets, 21 antitank mines, 1 pair of binoculars, 1 camera and a vehicle were seized from these murderers.

REBELS 'CRUSHED' IN OONDUZ, BAMIAN PROVINCES

LD301804 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] As a result of a heroic attack by the security forces of the sarandoy command and the revolution guards in Oonduz Province against a nest of counterrevolutionary mercenaries in areas of Oonduz Province, Arab Hayder, who led counterrevolutionary activities in Oonduz Province with two other counterrevolutionary ringleaders, by the names of Yosuf and Shah Wali, were crushed with 18 other persons on 19 November. A great quantity of weapons, including missile launchers and American and Chinese machineguns, were seized from them.

In another operation carried out by party activists and the heroic men of the sarandoy command of Oonduz Province in the village of Khanabad, Mo'alem 'Abdol Wahab, who called himself the chief of one of the counterrevolutionary bands, was punished with a colleague, by the name of Zabet Mehrab, and two other murderers, for their shameful actions. The security authorities seized their weapons.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Bamian Province that, following the discovery of secret cells of counterrevolutionary elements in [name indistinct] village, a rebel leader by the name of Mir 'Alam, son of Mohammad Hoseyn, was captured with a medium-range missile launcher. Several other rebels were captured with incriminating documents and weapons. 'Ali Ahmad, son of Nawroz, was killed and his [words indistinct] weapons were seized.

BRIEFS

GDR GOODS TO KABUL -- Kabul, 25 Nov (BAKHTAR) -- A plane-load of goods gifted by the GDR solidarity organization to the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization [PFSO] of the DRA arrived here today. The documents for this nine tons gift, including childrens clothes, clothing material and stationery was handed over by the head of the GDR delegation at the tenth session of the Presidium of AAPSO in Kabul to the responsible secretary of PSFO of the DRA in Kabul airport. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 26 Nov 81 LD]

DEFENSE MINISTER ADDRESSES RAJYA SABHA

BK011300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] The minister of state for defense declared in the Rajya Sabha today that India has the confidence and willpower to defend itself against any sophisticated weapon. Shivraj Patil said we have confidence in our skills to tide over any eventuality which might arise from Pakistan's acquisition of F-16 aircraft and other armaments.

Replying to a call-attention notice from Jaswant Singh, Bharatiya Janata Party, and three others, the minister said Pakistan can acquire nuclear capability any time now.

Answering supplementaries, Patil refuted a member's allegation that a war psychosis is being built up in the country. The government is only tring to inform the people that clouds of war are looming on the western front so that they should be able to face any eventuality.

Patil denied reports of Western newspapers that India has decided to conduct joint naval exercises with the Soviet Union.

COMPREHENSIVE DEAL PLANNED FOR FRENCH MIRAGE

BK020240 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 24 Nov 81 pp 1, 6

[Text] New Delhi, 22 Nov (UNI) -- A comprehensive deal for the purchase of 40 Mirage-2000 fighter aircraft and its eventual assembly here is now being prepared by the Ministry of Defence. The French have offered a new uprated engine to be fitted into the Indian Mirage-2000 aircraft which would give them 7 to 15 per cent more thrust.

The Defence Ministry, in consultation with the Indian Air Force [IAF], is working on an "intention to proceed" document which would be signed with the French Government and the manufacturers of the aircraft, Marcel Dassault.

Informed sources said the document would cover the entire Mirage programme, from the stage of initial deliveries in 1984 to the assembly of the plane by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

The present five prototypes of the Mirage-2000 which are now undergoing advanced testing are fitted with the Snecma M53-5 engine. The French would give India the M-53-P2 uprated engine.

Defence experts say there were possibilities of further development of the Mirage-2000 aircraft and while signing the deal India would keep in mind the experience of the Jaguar deal. The Indian side would ensure that all stepped up technology is available to the IAF in future and the price structure, which would be finalised now, was not changed.

The RDM radar of the Mirage-2000 has now been cleared for all existing weapons and is being cleared for weapons which the aircraft can and will carry in future. The RDM radar, it is understood, has the look-down-capability to track low flying aircraft and can be integrated with the Matra Super 530-D missile.

The improved RDI radar, which is optimised for air defence roles with larger ranges, is presently under development and could be available to the IAF when ready.

The French have conducted trials of a canard device with their Mirage-III's and if they chose to try a similar device on the Mirage-2000, which would further improve its interested sources said. [sentence as published]

They added that the "Mirage-2000 deal is not in reaction or a sequel to the F-16s" which Pakistan is acquiring from the United States.

Former chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal I.H. Latif, has already stated that requirement for an aircraft of the Mirage-2000 class was laid down as early as 1973-74 and that it was not a new development.

In a typical air defence mission, a Mirage-2000, carrying two Matra Super 530-D missiles, will be able to intercept and destroy Mach 3 class intruders coming at high altitudes in about five minutes after a scramble takeoff. For battlefield air coverage missions, the Mirage-2000 endurance will be 30 to 40 per cent larger than Mirage-III's radius in similar configuration. Pakistan already has a substantial number of Mirage-III aircraft which has been lately updated by the installation of a new navigation attack system.

Experts said the aircraft's performance in many respects exceeded expectations. Its low level manoeuvrability, for example, was better than anticipated and excellent handling have been demonstrated at speeds in the vicinity of 100 knots. [as published] Approach is made at around 140 knots, [as published] which is good for a delta wing aircraft.

MORE ON OIL EXPLORATION ACCORD WITH USSR

BK011256 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol under which 40 Soviet experts will be coming to India during the next 1 and 1/2 years for oil exploration purposes. This was stated by Petroleum Minister Sethi during the question time in the lower house of the Parliament today. He said India and the Soviet Union will undertake joint seismic surveys in West Bengal and Tripura to locate oilfields. Under the protocol Indian experts will also be trained in the Soviet Union.

The house was informed that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission [ONGC] is pursuing an accelerated plan for increasing production from the Bombay High and adjoining fields so that the level of production reaches 19.12 million tons by 1984-85 from the present level of 8.4 million tons. The ONGC also plans to increase the number of offshore rigs supplied to drill about 95 exploratory wells in different offshore areas during the sixth plan period. The ONGC is now extending its exploratory operations to deep waters in the Bombay offshore region. It is also planning to explore offshore areas of Shaurashtra in the Gulf of Kutch, Andamans and Nicobar shelf as well as the basin in the east coast such as [words indistinct] and the Krishna-Godavri basin. The minister also said that the Oil India Limited has conducted aeromagnetic and geophysical seismic surveys in the 1,200-km area of Mahanadi basic offshore. The data collected in these surveys are being reinterpreted with the assistance of consultants to identify new drillable locations.

RESULTS OF PARLIAMENTARY BYELECTIONS REPORTED

BK011642 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] In Maharashtra, the Congress-I has retained the Nandurbar Lok Sabha seat. Its candidate, (Manika Garvis), has been declared elected in the byelection from this reserved constituency. He defeated his nearest Janata rival, Shankar Yadav, by a margin of over 127,000 votes.

In Tripura, a Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPI-M] candidate, (Ram Kumar Devbarman), has been declared elected from Raima Valley reserved assembly constituency. He defeated his nearest rival of Tripura, Upajati Juba Samity, candidate Sham Charan Tripura, by a margin of over 800 votes. With this, the CPI-M has made a clean sweep of all the three seats in the state.

Out of the 15 seats in the assembly byelection for which results have come, Congress-I has secured 8, CPI-M 3, Bharitya Janata Party and independent 2 each. Counting of votes in the Tamenglong reserved constituency in Manipur will begin tomorrow.

ARMS DEAL WITH 'ZIONIST ENTITY' DENIED

GF202931 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bahrain has strongly denied the unfounded claim by the broadcasting station of the Saudi regime and the papers of the agent area about rumors indicating that the Islamic Republic of Iran has purchased arms from the Zionist entity.

In a statement, the embassy stressed that following the anger of the agents in the area due to the decisive position of the imam of the nation and the Muslim Iranian people toward the shameful Fahd plan, they resorted to distortion in an attempt to defame the Islamic revolution.

KHOMEYNI ADDRESSES YAZD, HORMOZGAN FRIDAY IMAMS

LD011318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Speech delivered by Ayatollah Ruhollah Musavi-Khomeyni to the Friday imams of Yazd and Hormozgan on 1 December; place not given -- recorded, duration 12 minutes]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Of course, the gentlemen have noted that this is a unique revolution which originates from the people themselves in the name of Islam and has been achieved with the overwhelming support of the nation. God Almighty has blessed the Iranian nation by turning the hearts of all toward the Islamic Republic. Everyone supports Islam and the Islamic Republic. Of course, you should note that all the other revolutions which have occurred in the world have suffered more losses than this one and have borne fewer fruits. No revolution in the world has gained so much and none has succeeded in realizing Islam and Islamic principles. Although some countries have adopted the name of Islamic republic, they have failed to achieve our results. Also, you should note that after their revolutions some countries are still plagued with problems. Sixty-five years after its revolution, the USSR, which is one of the superpowers of the world, still suffers from all sorts of problems that it is unable to solve.

One of Iran's greatest advantages is that now we do not have a government which is separated from the nation. Our armed forces, our government and our nation are not separated. The nation is in step with the armed forces and the government and if there are problems in the armed forces or the government, the people themselves deal with them even better than the government. For example, when Kerman was shaken by an earthquake we saw that with the efforts of Mr Saduqi and of the people, many of the problems were solved. Now, I hope that as the people are in the picture, problems will be solved. Of course, purges are presently taking place in government departments. The Inspectorate General will soon become operational and we hope that it will have the understanding of the people and especially of the clergy.

The most important point is that the religious leaders should guide the people and cooperate with the government to guide the people. They should maintain the present state of the people, which is a state of revolution. They should keep the people in the picture and warn them about those who intend to create problems and differences and those evil hands which are at work to stop this revolution from reaching fruition. Therefore, one of the most important tasks of the clergy in the towns, and especially Friday imams, is that in their sermons, when people are gathered and points can be raised, they should warn people of those hands which are trying to cause the disintegration of this revolution. All the plots hatched inside and outside the country have been neutralized so far. Thank God, the war is approaching a successful end, too. The country is yours. There is Islam and our commitment to follow Islamic principles, and one of the primary obligations required by the Almighty God from us is to guard Islam. All of us, all the nation and the cleargy are obliged to guard this divine gift.

Islam has been put in our trust. If we could once say that other governments did not allow us to do our duty and there were governments opposed to the clergy, stopping it from carrying out its duties, that excuse no longer exists and all you gentlemen, wherever you may be, are able to state the problems and guide the people, the government departments, and God willing, I hope that all our problems will soon be solved.

Of course, we have had a revolution. Ever since the beginning of the revolution and the movement and from the day they realized that this revolution would be victorious, a group of corrupt people have been plotting. During the revolution, when we were unable to remedy the situation, they started stealing firearms. Now you see that at times we have discovered large numbers of firearms and explosives in safe houses. This is because from the very first day they entered this movement they did not have anything to do with the Islamic movement and the Islamic revolution. They had a special goal, and following that goal, they sent their men to plunder the property of Muslims everywhere. God willing, I hope that through the efforts of the people, through their alertness and their reports on the location of these houses -- some of these houses have not been discovered yet -- this problem will soon be solved and then we can all get down to implementing Islam in the country, and if there are shortages anywhere, God willing, we will meet them.

I hope that with the efforts of all you gentlemen, theologians of towns, all the Sunni and Shi'ite clergymen, I hope you will get together and avoid the differences that corrupt people are trying to create among you. Each in his own town should warn the people that these differences are created in order to disturb the situation in Iran and bring back the domination of the superpowers over us. Of course, from the beginning, these differences were either created by ignorance or by hands which were busy trying to prevent this nation's unity of expr ssion. You and all our other brothers, wherever they may be, have now realized what blessings God Almighty has granted us because of our unity of expression. Therefore, you should now maintain this blessing and thank God for it. Our thanks should be manifest in protecting this unity with our teeth and claws and, God willing, in implementing Islam all over the country, and in living under the shadow of Islam and the banner of unity until the coming of the imam of the era. Peace and God's benediction be upon you all.

MUSAVI MEETS WITH SUNNI CLERGY IN HORMOZGAN

LD011818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] According to a Central News Unit dispatch, the Sunnite clergy in Hormozgan Province met and had talks this afternoon with Mr Musavi, the prime minister. During this meeting the province's problems and shortages were studied, particularly from the standpoint of fisheries and fishing. Emphasizing during this meeting that expanding fishery activities could produce an extremely constructive effect on the region and the government has certain plans in that direction, Mr Musavi said: I hope to be able to study your problems at close range. We know that every part of the country is beset with a great many shortages, but the plans being currently drawn up aim at independence and self-sufficiency and at the interests of the oppressed.

Since 11 February 1978 the counterrevolution has attempted to imfiltrate regions where our Sunnite and Shi'ite brethren live side by side in order to sow discord in the ranks of the Muslims, even though this Islamic revolution was for the benefit of the entire Islamic world and the unity of Muslims, and the passage of time has shown that it is a worldwide revolution and its effects are already being clearly felt in Egypt, Tunisia and North Africa.

Wherever Muslims awaken and come to comprehend the Koran as it truly is, their first slogan becomes one of unity and solidarity, and it is particularly this which gives us hope. God willing, the unity and cooperation between our Shi'ite and Sunnite brethren in the country will become a model to all Muslims throughout the world and Islamic society will regain on a world scale the grandeur and greatness which existed at the dawn of Islam. This is precisely the reason why the United States landed forces a few hundred kilometers from where you are now and stationed its AWACS planes in the holy land of Mecca and Medina.

I cherish the hope that, as a result of the unity which took place in Iran, thanks to the leadership of the imam of the Islamic nation and thanks to the unity amongst us all, we will see a day when only a regime of God governs the region and the flag of Islam stands above all other flags. God willing, the government will be a good servant of Islam and the people!

REPORT ON 2 DEC MEETINGS OF MAJLIS COMMITTEES

LD020958 Tehran PARS in English 0916 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 2 Dec (PARS) -- Majlis committees in Tuesday's work ratified, among other things, new guidelines for the press law.

The Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, while ratifying some of the statutes of the reconstruction jihad, approved the bill authorising purchases of boats and fishing equipment from the People's Democratic Republic of Korea by the southern fisheries of Iran.

The Plan and Budget Committee studied financing proposals for the 1360 [1981-82] budget through the projected revenues that the Commerce Ministry section in charge of nationalizing foreign trade will collect and through tax receipts.

The Foreign Affairs Committee held a meeting with the Islamic guidance minister, the undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry as well as the representatives of the Tabliqat [Propaganda] Coordination Council and discussed the Islamic associations [word indistinct] and about what organs ought to undertake the responsibility of managing the associations inside the country. Also the guidance minister attended the Islamic Guidance Committee which following its consultation with him ratified some of the legal articles of the press law for final deliberation.

NEW CHARTER APPROVED FOR ECONOMIC MOBILIZATION

LD020950 Tehran PARS in English 0913 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 2 Dec (PARS) -- A reformulation of the charter of the Economic Mobilisation headquarters and the work done to determine the methods and relations of production in Iran was reviewed by the Economic Council. In this meeting the Plan and Budget Organisation report on the committees for determining the economic mode of production of the country was reviewed. While presenting some guidelines on the functions of these committees, the council resolved to request the theological school of Qom to identify some individuals competent to compile economic laws and policies. In order to supervise the committees' functions, the council also resolved that the committees submit weekly work reports to the council.

The Economic Council then reviewed and approved a new charter for the Economic Mobilisation headquarters to be turned over to the Cabinet for final approval. The new charter provides that the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development be represented in the headquarters and for the perpetual and effective coordination of the headquarters with the Economic Council as an executive arm of the council.

PARS MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF IRANIAN CONSTITUTION

LD020946 Tehran PARS in English 0902 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 2 Dec (PARS NEWS AGENCY) -- Today, Azar 11th, is the second anniversary of the ratification of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran by an overwhelming vote of the people of Iran. On this day two years ago, the people of Iran from all walks of life went to cast their votes in a referendum for the approval of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was prepared by the assembly of experts, composed of 72 popularly elected representatives who were either mujahids -- Islamic religious scholars competent to issue Islamic judicial decrees -- or secular scholars distinguished in their fields of competence. One can name prominent figures in the assembly of experts like Ayatollah Montazeri, the late Ayatollah Taleqani, the martyred Ayatollah Hasheminezhad, the martyred Ayatollah Beheshti, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, Dr Sheibani, the martyred Dr Ayat, Ayatollah Taheri of Esfahan and Mrs Monire Gorji. This assembly wrote the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran [on] the basis of the draft propounded by the Cabinet, the suggestions of the people of Iran and on the bases of current religious verdicts. The Constitution is made of 175 articles and is, by and large, the most progressive Islamic constitution of any country in the world.

It not only provides for the institutions, and political relations and social, cultural and economic associations of the society, but also forms the basis for strengthening the foundations of the Islamic Republic. Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in addressing the members of the assembly in Qom, two years ago said that the people must take an interest in the affairs of their own state. This way they would become a model for all the Islamic countries and Muslim peoples of the world. The imam said they must know that this assembly is made up of members they voted for and hence all must abide by their rulings. After the religious verdicts of imam and other jurisprudents concerning the Constitution, the Muslims of Iran along with other brothers and sisters belonging to other faiths, numbering 16 million, voted in the referendum for their Constitution.

IRANIAN SPOKESMAN HECKLED AT OPEC SESSION

LD012032 Tehran PARS in English 1832 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] Vienna, 1 Dec (PARS) -- Amid rude interruptions and official obstruction, Iran's OPEC delegates managed to present Iran's two-part thesis in the final session of the OPEC seminar on energy and development held here.

When Amir Sepahban, the Iranian Oil Ministry international affairs advisor began his speech, the Indonesian oil minister Subroto, who was chairing the final seminar session interrupted Sepahban several times on the pretext of reminding the Iranian speaker not to exceed a ten minute time limit. Throughout the remainder of his speech the Saudi Arabian delegation jeered and behaved in a very rude manner towards the speaker while the session chairman, Subroto, looked on oblivious to the breach in decorum.

Despite these attempts to interrupt him Sepahban managed to elucidate the two following points: first, it was necessary to conserve oil given its continual depletion, by raising prices and reducing consumption. Second, on the basis of research conducted by Iranian and other oil researchers the benefits accruing from raising the price of oil would cover other developing Third World nations outside of OPEC as well.

Besides Sepahban also Dr Shams Ardakani, Iran's ambassador to Kuwait, and some French and West German economic experts spoke in the final session of the conference.

TEHRAN PAPER ATTACKS PLO ACCEPTANCE OF FAHD PLAN

PM011553 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 18 Nov 81 p 16

[Sajjad Javidi "Current Political Commentary" column: "Where Is the PLO Heading?]

[Excerpt] After the first direct cease-fire between the PLO and Israel on the arrival of Reagan's special emissary Philip Habib during the usurper Israel's most recent incursion into southern Lebanon, following which a peace plan was announced by Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the regime occupying Jerusalem announced with scarcely contained joy that "the Saudi regime has never made such an explicit statement." In a commentary on Fahd's eight-point plan, Israel radio and television said: "Prince Fahd's peace plan frankly recognizes the Jewish state officially for the first time, and this signifies a complete change in the Saudi Kingdom's Middle East policy."

Although Israel did not state its view on this peace plan -- and it has not yet stated officially whether or not it accepts this reactionary shaykhs' American-drafted peace initiative (!!) -- it has singled out the seventh point of the plan, which it regards as a turn in Arab Middle East policies. There is reference in it to "recognition of the sovereign rights of all states of the region living in peaceful coexistence." Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejected the Fahd peace plan in an interview with AHARONOT, and stated that the only positive thing it contained was the official recognition of Israel's existence.

In view of the foregoing, it may be said that recognition of Israel as a state of the region is common to both the Camp David agreement and the Fahd plan, and this has been accepted by all the reactionary states. However, a notable and fundamental concession gained by Israel here is that while the Camp David agreement was rejected by all states in some way involved in the Middle East issue, with As-Sadat ostracized as a traitor, there has been no similar repudiation of Prince Fahd by the Arab community, and as far as we know many of the countries have apparently discovered their "angel of peace" and are rallying round the plan.

Thus, in reality, in spite of the fact that it carried out repeated incursions into southern Lebanon and committed criminal acts from 1978, when preliminary talks for Camp David began, up to mid-1981, when Fahd's plan was presented, the usurper Israel lost nothing, and in spite of the curses called down on Israel and Anwar as-Sadat during those years, matters have now reached a stage where the subservient Saudi Arabian UN representative openly declares that "We are not afraid of stating that this plan recognizes Israel officially." And more interesting than this is the fact that Israel shamelessly accepts only that part of the plan which recognizes its existence. Moreover, in the face of American and Saudi protests at Israeli violations of Saudi airspace, Israeli Defense Minister Ar'iel Sharon says: "Israeli reconnaissance flights over countries considered a danger will continue. America and all the world must know that we shall do whatever is necessary to preserve our security."

Thus, even now that the so-called Fahd peace plan is about to be discussed and perhaps agreed upon, Israel is not prepared to modify its stance and is even getting its forces fully prepared for another invasion of southern Lebanon.

The somewhat lengthy introduction over, we turn to the crux of the matter, which is this: Is the PLO, as principal party in the Palestine issue, aware of Israel's brazenness and expansionism or not?

Has the organization kept the slogan "Revolution until victory" firmly in view? Does it truly wish -- as certain of its leaders claim -- to engage in violent struggle with Israel and take back the occupied lands by force of arms? Or has it adopted a policy of compromise and conciliation, submitting to the shame and stigma of "peaceful co-existence with Israel?" Does the PLO, and Yasir 'Arafat himself as head of the PLO Executive Committee, wish to appear as he did before the United Nations in 1974 with an olive branch in one hand and a weapon in the other, or has he decided this time to clutch the olive branch tightly and put aside the weapon? Does Yasir 'Arafat intend to keep the Palestinian people alive merely with the Karama epics [reference to PLO successes against Israel in early seventies] or to prepare them for a protracted and violent struggle against imperialism and Zionism? Or in spite of the memory of the 10,000 Palestinians massacred in September 1970 by King Husayn's subservient, American regime, does he pay him visits and embrace him in a brotherly manner? Does 'Arafat intend to avenge the innocent blood of the organization's leaders, assassinated by the Iraqi regime's ignoble security and intelligence services, or is he asking Saddam not to oppose the reactionary Arab's American peace plan; and is it at least to prevent Fahd from losing face -- something he never possessed anyway -- that he declares "we shall not oppose directions taken by the Arab governments even if this does not accord with our interests," thus implying that he accepts the traitorous Fahd plan?

We believe that, as our own men commonly say, certain Palestinian fronts have "broken up," that is, they have become weary of the struggle, and as certain leaders of the organization claim, they wish to enlarge the political dimensions of the struggle. They even regard their press conferences as "struggle."

They thus lay down their arms, take up an olive branch and advance toward the bloodthirsty regime, which will at the first opportunity dip its hands unflinchingly in the blood of hundreds and thousands of Arabs, Palestinians and Muslims. What has happened, it must be asked, to all the fine talk of the struggle? What made Brzezinski, who once said "goodbye PLO," state recently that "it is now time for America to remove its one-sided boycott of the PLO and to hold talks which will make the organization more moderate and lead to its involvement in the solution of the West Bank and Gaza problems?

Does the PLO not recognize the true nature of Israel and America? Does it not know that they will not be bound by these peace plans, that Israel's strategy is based on the slogan "The promised land extends from the Nile to the Euphrates" and that whenever it wishes, with or without a reason, it will attack Islamic lands and appropriate Islamic territory piece by piece?

The PLO leaders must be asked: Where, in the context of Palestinian politics and the struggles of its heroic Muslim people, is there an indication that permits you to sign an ignominious peace treaty in their name, and -- as the imam [Khomeyni] has said -- not only to recognize the existence of the regime occupying Jerusalem but to guarantee its borders? Moreover, even if you agree to this shameful arrangement, do you imagine that the Palestinian people will accept it?

RAFSANJANI SPEAKS ON BOSTAN 'VICTORY'

GF010846 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0506 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Speech by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the Majlis on 1 December -- live]

[Excerpts] The victory achieved over the past 2 days by brother members of the army, Guards Corps, Mobilization organization and unconventional warfare on the Bostan front has not yet been assessed since neither our enemies nor friends nor impartial observers have fully understood the depth of this new movement. It was a great job and it is the start of a new phase in our war with Iraq.

First of all, this front was one of the most difficult fronts; that is, our offensive move was directly aimed at the enemy. The enemy forces were stationed in the north at the enemy. The enemy forces were stationed in the north at the [name indistinct] hills, in the west at the marsh and the Iraqi border and in the south at the Neysan River. Only from the east were they facing us. Our forces' attack was aimed directly at the enemy. We do not have this problem on other fronts.

The enemy was aware of our offensive due to its delay, because it had been planned to coincide with the Fes conference as an answer to the Arab reactionaries, the leaders of reactionary countries and the U.S. maneuvers. When the conference was cancelled a few days delay occurred because the Iraqi POW's had said that they were aware of the plan for the offensive. In view of the Iraqi Army's knowledge of the offensive and the special situation on the front that I have described this victory has taught us and Saddam many things. Obviously, from now on it will be Iran who will judge where it wants and when it is right to inflict blows on the Iraqi Army. [Shouts of "God is great" "Khomeyni is the leader" and "Death to Saddam"]

We have given our final notice to Iraq and Saddam's army with our victory north of Abadan, and the past 2 months have been enough for them to study and make a decision. Our excuse [for killing Iraqi soldiers] is known to God, the world's Islamic society and peace-seekers. This period has been enough for the world to recognize that Iran and the Islamic Republic have the right to do what they have to do. From the dias of the Majlis and as the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, I warn the deceived soldiers of Saddam that in the coming weeks they had beeter make the right decision. I assure them that the Bostan victory is not our last. From now on, on all fronts their fate will be the same as that of their companions on the Bostan front.

You should turn your weapons upon the officials of the Ba'th Party and Saddam in order to save the region from the mischief of Saddam and Ba'th Party and to liberate the Iraqi and Iranian nations from this war. Or you should desert and give up the war. Otherwise, your fate will be either captivity or death on the front; there will be either captivity or death on the front; there will be nothing else for Ba'thist military personnel if they remain in Iran.

With the final notice that has been made to Saddam, he has proven to be the Eichmann of our era. Many Iraqis have been killed in Bostan and their (?blood) has turned the Bostan area red. All this cannot be a source of happiness for us. We cannot be happy seeing soldiers being killed here instead of fighting on the Israeli borders. Saddam has imposed this on us. We are not willing to see in our country the corpses of Iraqis even if they are Ba'thists. However, it is your choice. Moreover, with our war experiences and our faith in and devotion to our brother soldiers and with the light of the Koran and Islam, which exist in the hearts of these combatants, the future of the war and the bright horizon of the Islamic Republic if completely clear.

These are the last words to be said to the Iraqi warmongers and their supporters in the region -- who are nobody but the reactionary and imperialist lackeys.

In conclusion, I thank the dear soldiers who have courageously achieved this victory, bringing honor to their country, their people and their revolution. We thank in particular our dear brother members of the reconstruction crusade who have built roads under fire on this front and other fronts and for the supply of ammunition they have provided even though they are not soldiers.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 715

LD011838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Communique 715 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Glory to the bright and victorious souls of the martyrs in the imposed war and to those who slept in their blood at the battlefronts of truth against falsehood, and particularly to those bloodstained martyrs in the recent victories on the southern fronts. We offer our congratulations and condolences to the martyrs' honorable families and give thanks and appreciation for the efforts of every single believer and emotional, enthusiastic warrior of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We also thank the revolutionary and grateful people of the Islamic nation of Iran who did not refuse any assistance and support to their fighting brothers in the war and who concentrated all their attention and interests on the battlefronts. Now we announce the battle operations and self-sacrifices of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the situation at the battlefronts over the past 24 hours:

According to an Iranian Air Force report, at 1545 [local time] antiaircraft fire downed one of the aggressive Iraqi Air Force planes on the southern front. Ground forces troops also downed three intruding Iraqi helicopters on the Bostan front.

Following the liberation of Bostan, our powerful and pride-giving forces consolidated the positions captured from the Saddamist forces in most of the directions around the front. Our forces are defending their new positions on this front, have repulsed continuing Iraqi counteroffesives and have halted the enemy's last-ditch efforts and futile attempts at pressure.

According to a ground forces announcement, our forces, repulsing the enemy with great bravery, destroyed about 20 Iraqi tanks and captured several of their soldiers during one of the Iraqi counteroffensives.

According to the latest reports, fighting continues on the Bostan front and 408 Iraqi prisoners of war have been transferred to the rear.

Fighting has continued on most of the western fronts, including Salehabad, Meymak, Gilan-e Gharb, (Tang-e Hajian), Dar Ballut, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Bazi Deraz and Sonboleh. Artillery and mortar fire has been exchanged sporadically. Thanks to our powerful artillery units, part of the enemy positions and fortifications were destroyed and several of their soldiers were killed or wounded.

On the Marivan front, in the region of (Hargineh), soldiers of the ground forces fired on the Saddamists' positions, destroying about seven of their slit trenches and killing or wounding about 40 soldiers.

At Dezful, the ground forces returned the enemy's fire and, while preventing enemy movements and activities, destroyed one ammunition dump and one AA gun. Our soldiers also killed or wounded 36 Iraqis.

Sporadic fire continued to be exchanged on the Abadan front.

Warriors of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ground Forces and the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, in a joint statement, express their gratitude to all the revolutionary forces who have assisted them in the battle against falsehood.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GUARDS CORPS COMMUNIQUE ON SOUTHERN OPERATIONS

LD011734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Communique by the Command Council of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in connection with operations on southern fronts; issued in Tehran on 1 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With a salute to the pure souls of all the martyrs of the war imposed by world oppression on the great Islamic revolution, we bring to the attention of the revolutionary, martyr-nuturing Islamic nation some of the operations carried out by the combatants of Islam on the southern fronts:

Following the heroic operations carried out by the selfless combatants of the Islamic Guards Corps in the liberation of Bostan and its surrounding areas, several enemy counteroffensives were repulsed yesterday, thanks to our combatants' bravery and courageous steadfastness. During these operations yet another group of the aggressive forces of the infidel Saddam was captured by our forces and a number of tanks belonging to the aggressive enemy were destroyed. Continuing these victorious operations, the strategic Jazzabeh Pass was also completely occupied by our forces and the army of Islam strengthened its positions and fortifications in that region. Also the positions of our zealous and powerful combatants on the Sableh Bridge, which was regained from the aggressive enemy, were reinforced and our own forces are now in full control of this region.

[Signed] The Command Council of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

RADIO IRAN REPORTS ON NEW PURGES IN ARMY

GF301822 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] According to reliable reports [words indistinct] Reyshahri, the Shar' magistrate of the armed forces courts, has been given a new order by his imam to purge the armed forces of all nationalist forces. According to our correspondent, Reyshahri has assured his imam that he will prepare the grounds for the dissolution of the Iranian Army with a number of new [words indistinct] so that the guards that have been trained in Eastern countries can replace it. The report also indicates that a new wave of arrests awaits officers, NCO's and soldiers of the Iranian Armed Forces.

RADIO IRAN: ARMY CHIEF INTENDS TO RESIGN

NC011931 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] It was said in Tehran last night that General Zahirnezhad, successor to the chief of staff, intends to resign. A staff officer stated that the reason for Zahirnezhad's decision is his strong difference with the commander of the Revolution Guards Corps, Mohsen Reza'i. Apparently Zahirnezhad wants to prepare and issue the armed forces communique's independently, without the participation of the revolution guards. The officer also stated that President 'Ali Musavi-Khamene'i and Speaker of the Majlis Hashemi-Rafsanjani have placed General Zahirnezhed under control, insisting that from now on he should be subject to orders issued by the commander of the Revolution Guards Corps and should (?endorse) the latter's military communiques.

In relation to this, our correspondent has reported that an underground group formed of officers and NCO's of the Iranian Armed Forces, who are struggling against Khomeyni's regime, have sent a threatening letter to General Zahirnezhad telling him to stop cooperating with the mullahs' illegal regime or else he will be assassinted by commandos of the national Iranian Army. Tehran residents have told our correspondent that several other officers who are cooperating with the regime have received similar letters.

The Supreme Defense Council is to hold an extraordinary meeting today to discuss Zahirnezhad's resignation and the threatening letter that he has received.

SRI LANKA

REPORTED 'HARBORING' OF U.S. BASE DENIED

BK011703 Hong Kong AFP in English 1633 GMT 1 Dec 81

[Text] New Delhi, 1 Dec (AFP) -- Sri Lanka today strongly rejected reports that it was harbouring American or other foreign military bases in the island republic.

Visiting Sri Lankan Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali described these reports as "a base lie" and told reporters here that the Indian Government had "accepted our assurances" on the question but he would like to (?reiterate) them as there was "misinformation and a lot of canard" about it all.

Mr. Athulathmudali had separate meetings with President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi here earlier today.

Had Sri Lanka ever allowed itself to be used as a base against India in the past 40 years, he asked, adding: "No government of Sri Lanka will allow any of its facilities to be used in a manner hostile to India."

He did not indicate the nature of his meetings with Mr. Reddy and Mrs. Gandhi but noted the fact that the Indian president could not make an earlier scheduled visit to Sri Lanka.

Mr. Athulathmudali further noted that Sri Lanka was working in close rapport with India towards an international tea agreement. Kenya had also now agreed to join in the common effort of tea producing countries.

He said Sri Lanka had liberalised imports of Indian tea which was now being blended with the Sri Lankan tea for certain specific markets which he did not specify.

Mr. Athulathmudali felt it might be cheaper for India to import natural rubber from Sri Lanka as his country was now no more committed to rubber exports to China.

Joint ventures with buy-back arrangements offered good scope for India and Sri Lanka in areas like shoes, bicycle tires and tubes, fertilisers and sugar mills.

ARMY COMMANDER TO HEAD INTELLIGENCE UNIT

BK011430 Colombo WEEKEND in English 22 Nov 81 p 1

[Text] A top-level intelligence unit, now being set up by the Defense Ministry, will come under the charge of the army commander, Major-General Tissa Weeratunga.

This new unit, due to begin functioning from January 1 next year, is to be located in Colombo. 7 additional buildings required for the purpose are to be acquired.

The unit, besides personnel from the army, will also comprise top-ranking police officials.